GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1694
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Testing of Pollution Level
Kamaraaj Dr. K.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government or any of its agencies are conducting periodic test on the level of pollution in various cities of the country including Delhi;
(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise along with the names of most polluted cities in the country, State/UT and serial-wise in each of the years 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014- 2015;
(c) whether the Government has fixed pollution standard for cities in the country;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the steps taken by the Government to make the cities pollution free in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) is monitoring air and water bodies across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) and National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). The NAMP network presently comprises 612 operating monitoring stations located in 254 cities/towns in 29 states and 5 union territories across the country. Three air pollutants viz. Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) and Particulate Matter (PM) of size less than or equal to 10 micron (PM10) are being monitored at all the locations. Other parameters like PM2.5, Carbon monoxide (CO), Ammonia (NH3), Lead (Pb), Ozone (O3), Benzene (C6H6), Benzo (a) pyrene, Arsenic (As) and Nickel (Ni) are being monitored at selected locations and are being added to the monitoring network under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Air quality data for million plus cities including Delhi during 2012, 2013 and 2014 is annexed.

CPCB in association with SPCBs is assessing the aquatic resources at 2500 locations (surface water & ground water) in the country under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme. CPCB has carried out comprehensive assessment of water quality of surface water resources and identified 302 polluted river stretches on 275 rivers. One of the major sources of water pollution is discharge of treated/untreated/ partially treated sewage in water resources. It is estimated that the total volume of municipal waste water generation in the country is about 61948 MLD whereas the sewage treatment capacity developed so far is 23277 MLD leaving a wide gap of more than 38,671 MLD.

(c) & (d) CPCB has identified and formulated the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) on April 11, 1994 which was notified in Gazette of India, Extra-ordinary Part-II Section 3, sub section (ii), dated May 20, 1994. The revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards notified on November, 2009 comprises 12 pollutants namely, PM10, PM2.5, Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Ammonia (NH3), ground level Ozone (O3), Lead, Arsenic, Nickel, Benzene and BaP (particulate phase). These standards are not city or area specific; rather they are applicable to the entire country. More stringent standards are prescribed for ecologically sensitive area.

(e) Major steps taken by the Government to make the cities pollution free in the country include the following:

(i) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (2009), envisaging 12 pollutants;
(ii) Formulation of environmental regulations / statutes;
(iii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air and water quality;
(iv) Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel, ethanol blend etc. replacing petrol and diesel;
(v) Promotion of cleaner production processes;

Taking note of the gravity of Pollution, the Government has taken some more measures which include:
I. Launched National Air Quality index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 14 cities and now extended to 22 cities;
II. Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
III. Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards;
IV. Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste;
V. Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;
VI. Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries.
VII. Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments
VIII. Preparation of action plan for sewage management and restoration of water quality in aquatic resources by State Governments;
IX. Action to comply with effluent standards is taken by SPCBs / PCCs to improve the water quality of the rivers;

X. Installation of Online Effluent Monitoring System to check the discharge of effluent directly into the rivers and water bodies;
XI. Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to industries and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
XII. Installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units;

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